

REMARKS

In the outstanding official action, claims 1, 2 and 5-8 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Feenstra et al., with claims 3-4 and 9-11 being objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, and in order to place the instant application in condition for allowance, the claims have been amended herewith in order to place the allowable subject matter in independent form. Specifically, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of now-cancelled claim 3, and new independent claim 12 has been added to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 9, with all of the remaining pending claims depending from and further limiting the allowable subject matter of amended claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the currently-pending claims, as herewith amended, now all contain allowable subject matter as indicated in the outstanding Action. Accordingly, allowance of the instant application is

respectfully submitted to be justified at the present time, and
favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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